

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 13643 221046Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

CU-02 DHA-02 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 AS-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /072 W

-----040234 221051Z /23

O 221000Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3481

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, SHUM, TH

SUBJ: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS: THAILAND

REF: (A) STATE 144552; (B) BANGKOK 13585

1. DRAFT OF OAKLEY REHARKS BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE JUNE 30
(REF A) PROVIDES AN ACCURATE AND ELOQUENT STATEMENT OF HUMAN
RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND. REF A CROSSED REF B, WHICH UPDATES
THE NUMBER OF PERSONS STILL DETAINED FROM OCT 6, AND MINOR
SUGGESTED CHANGES, KEYED TO NUMBERED TEXT PARAS OF REF A FOLLOW:

(A) PARA (3). SUGGEST ADDITION OF NEW SENTENCE FOLLOWING FIRST
THREE SENTENCES OF PARA, "A RESHUFFLED CABINET UNDER PRIME
MINISTER SENI WAS SWORN IN BY THE KING ON OCTOBER 5". SUGGEST
ADDING TWO ADDITIONAL SENTENCES AT END OF PARA (3), "A MOB
OF SOME 50,000 PEOPLE, DRAWN LARGELY FROM VOCATIONAL STUDENT
AND RURAL GROUPS, LATER DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF THE PRIME
MINISTER'S OFFICE, DEMANDING THE RESIGNATION OF THE CABINET.
PRIME MINISTER SENI APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED BY THE
TRAGIC EVENTS OF THE MORNING AND SEEMED UNABLE TO DEAL WITH THE
NEW SITUATION."

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(B) PARA (11). SUGGEST UPDATE OF LAST TWO SENTENCES OF PARA,
AS FOLLOWS: "OF THE 3000 PERSONS, MOSTLY STUDENTS, ARRESTED AT
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY ON OCT 6 BUT BEFORE THE COUP, ALL BUT 23
HAVE BEEN RELEASED OUTRIGHT OR ARE FREE ON BAIL. ALLEGATIONS OF
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AGAINST 110 PERSONS ARRESTED ON OCT 6 BEFORE
THE COUP (MOST OF WHOM HAVE BEEN FREED ON BAIL) ARE BEING
CONSIDERED, BUT THE DEPARTMENT IS INFORMED THAT NOT RPT NOT ALL

OF THEM ARE LIKELY TO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL."

(C) PARA (16). NUMBER OF PIETNAMESE TROOPS IN LAOS IS UNUSUALLY LOW. WE HAVE USED FIGURE OF 30 TO 40,000.

(D) PARA (17). LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH, IN PARENTHESES, STATES, "MOST OF THE EXPENSES FOR THESE REFUGEES ARE BORNE BY THAILAND." ACTUALLY, UNHCR, WITH SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY U.S., BEARS MOST OF COSTS OF REFUGEES IN CAMPS. SUGGEST DELETING FINAL SENTENCE OF PARA (17).

2. SUGGEST ADDING FINAL PARA TO THIS EXCELLENT STATEMENT, AS FOLLOWS: "IN CONSIDERING ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THAILAND FACES A DILEMMA BETWEEN CONCERN FOR THE INDIVIDUAL AND CONCERN FOR THE INTEREST OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE NATION. THAILAND IS A DEVOUTLY BUDDHIST COUNTRY, FIERCELY PROUD OF ITS INDEPENDENCE, WITH MORAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS WHICH BLEND CLASSICAL BUDDHIST PRINCIPLES WITH HINDU, CONFUCIAN, AND TAOIST CONCEPTS. IN THIS VIEW OF THE WORLD THE INTERESTS OF THE FAMILY WEIGH MORE THAN THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CROWN AND OF THE NATION ARE REGARDED AS VALUES OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE. THE THAI SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED, EVEN IMPLICITLY, AS PART OF THE ANGLO-SAXON WORLD, TO WHICH THEY HAVE NEVER BELONGED AND WHOSE VALUES THEY DO NOT FULLY SHARE. THE THAI BELIEVE THAT THEIR REORDERING OF THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A GOOD ONE, AND THE FACTS SET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT BEAR THIS OUT."
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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